

**Remarks**

Claims 36, 37, 38, and 40 were rejected in the Official Action of April 19, 2004. Claims 36, has been amended. Entry of the Amendment and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested.

The Applicants' invention is a synthetic organic polymer composition comprising, among other things, a backbone chain, and at least one contact-killing, non-leaching, charged antimicrobial side chain. The antimicrobial side chain is selected from benzalkonium halide compound, quaternary ammonium, pyridinium, and phosphonium salts, and combinations thereof, covalently bound to the polymeric backbone. The resulting polymer may be suitable in a variety of applications such as film and container packaging of foodstuffs, cosmetics, medical equipment and devices, environmental, hygienic and sanitary applications, as well as other consumer and commercial use. Applicant has amended the claims to cover pyridinium salts.

The Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gould et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,451,635), which does not relate to pyridinium salts. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection.

The Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kenawy et al. '98. Kenawy does not relate to pyridinium salts, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection.

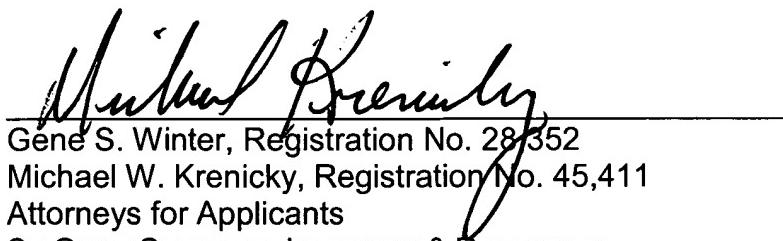
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The Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haase et al. The Examiner has indicated that pyridinium salts are envisioned by table 2. Applicants respectfully submit that table 2 is limited to piperidine rings and not pyridinium salts. Thus, Haase does not relate to pyridinium salts, and reconsideration is urged.

The Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stovicek. Stovicek does not relate to pyridinium salts, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 36, 37, 38 and 40 are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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